

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00
SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 AID-05 COME-00 FPC-01 PM-05
OIC-02 /093 W

-----112012 190954Z /10

P R 190852Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5193
USERDA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 6016

DEPARTMENT FOR OES/NET/PM (VERNON ADLER)
DEPARTMENT PASS NRC (J.LAFLEUR)
USERDA FOR N. SIEVERING
TOKYO FOR J. BLOOM AND W. HENOC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, KS
SUBJECT: RESUME OF JULY 14 - 16 MEETING OF US-ROK JOINT STANDING
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR AND OTHER ENERGY TECHNOLOGY MATTERS

REF: A) SEOUL 5423; B) SEOUL 4002; (C) SEOUL 5530

SUMMARY: TIGHTLY SCHEDULED VISIT AND MEETING PROCEEDED AS
PLANNED (REFTEL A). ASSURANCES THAT U.S. REMAINS COMMITTED
AS RELIABLE SUPPLIER OR URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES AND
NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGY WERE GREATLY APPRECIATED. KOREANS
ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACCEPT U.S. INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN
INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION AND REQUEST THAT
COOPERATION BE EXPANDED IN AREAS OF NON-NUCLEAR ENERGY
TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS SOLAR, GEOTHERMAL, TIDAL AND WIND ENERGY.
PARAGRAPH FIVE IS STATEMENT ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF
MEETING. END SUMMARY.

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1. SUBJECT MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE
INDICATIVE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON BOTH SIDES OF PROGRESS IN
BOTH THE IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS OF COOPERATION AND THE
ASSIGNMENT OF KOREAN EXPERTS IN THE U.S. NOZENSO'S
ASSURANCES REGARDING U.S. COMMITMENT TO NUCLEAR ENERGY
PEACEFUL USES DISPELLED KOREAN ANXIETY, LARGELY DERIVED

FROM SPECULATIVE NEWSPAPER TREATMENT IN U.S. AND JAPAN, REGARDING EFFECT OF U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION INITIATIVES ON THE PRACTICAL MATTERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF NUCLEAR FUEL TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY. THE KOREAN SIDE EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION INITIATIVES WHICH IN THEIR PROPER CONTEXT POSE NO BARRIER TO INCREASED U.S.-ROK COOPERATION IN PRESENT GENERATION NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. NRC INFORMATION ON LATEST ASSIGNMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR KOREAN EXPERTS TO WORK IN BETHESDA AND IDAHO FALLS PROVIDED CONCRETE INSTANCES OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION.

2. THE KOREAN SIDE ACCEPTED NOZENSO'S INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION AND EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN EVALUATION OF THE (A) POTENTIAL ECONOMIC USE OF LOW-GRADE URANIUM ORES AND

(B) TECHNICAL-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE TANDEM USE OF LIGHT WATER REACTORS AND HEAVY WATER REACTORS (CANDU TYPE) TO ACHIEVE MORE EFFICIENT BURNUP OF LOW ENRICHED FUEL. IT WAS AGREED THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE CARRIED OUT FOR KOREAN PARTICIPATION IN THE KICK-OFF MEETING THIS FALL IN WASHINGTON OF COUNTRIES TAKING PART IN THE EVALUATION.

3. THE KOREAN SIDE ALSO EXPRESSED ENTHUSIASTIC INTEREST IN AUGMENTING JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE COOPERATION IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GENERAL FIELD OF NON-NUCLEAR ADVANCE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS SOLAR, GEOTHERMAL, TIDAL AND WIND ENERGY. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT BOTH THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (MOST) AND THE KOREA DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (KDI) ARE COMPETING FOR AUTHORITY TO SET UP A NEW ENERGY POLICY ANALYSIS INSTITUTE WHICH WOULD PERFORM LONG TERM PLANNING AND ANALYSIS FOR ALL SECTORS OF THE KOREAN ENERGY INDUSTRY. THE KDI PLAN, OF U.S. AND EUROPEAN VISIT ORIGIN (REFTEL B), CALLS FOR AN INITIAL STAFFING TO BE COMPOSED OF TWELVE ECONOMISTS, TWELVE PHYSICAL SCIENTISTS AND FOUR SYSTEM ANALYSIS EXPERTS. MOST WOULD AUGMENT THE STAFF OF KOREA ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO ACCOMPLISH THE SAME JOB.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF MEETING WAS FACT THAT IT ESTABLISHED MEANINGFUL WORKING RELATIONSHIP, PROVED TO ROKS THAT U.S. INTEREST IN COMMITTEE WAS GENUINE, AND AFFIRMED THAT THIS CHANNEL CAN BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE HELPED FURTHER ESTABLISH IN ROK MINDS: 1) THAT BROAD U.S. TECHNICAL BASE IN ENERGY FIELD IS WITHOUT PARALLEL AND IS ACCESSIBLE; AND 2) THAT U.S. SHOULD REMAIN ROK PRIMARY PARTNER IN ENERGY MATTERS. IN ADDITION TO REPORTING HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING ABOVE

EMBASSY POUCHING COPIES OF FULL SUMMARY RECORD OF MEETING.

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5194

USERDA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SEOUL 6016

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, KS

SUBJECTC RESUME OF JULY 14 - 16 MEETING OF US-ROK JOINT STANDING

COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR AND OTHER ENERGY TECHNOLOGY MATTERS

5. STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. AND REPUBLIC
OF KOREA JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR AND OTHER
ENERGY TECHNOLOGY MATTERS.

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED
LAST YEAR, U.S. AND KOREAN MEMBERS OF THE JOINT STANDING
COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY AND OTHER ENERGY TECHNOLOGY
MET IN SEOUL JULY 14 - 16 TO REVIEW PROGRESS AND IDENTIFY
NEW AREAS FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION
RELATED TO ENERGY PRODUCTION. THE COMMITTEE WAS FORMED
IN JUNE 1976 AT WASHINGTON D.C., TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR
EXCHANGE OF ENERGY POLICY CONSIDERATIONS AND WORKING-LEVEL
TECHNICAL EXPERTISE, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION DIRECTED TO
THE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND OTHER ADVANCED ENERGY
TECHNOLOGY ALTERNATIVES. MR. LOUIS V. NOSENZO, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR NUCLEAR
ENERGY AND OTHER ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AFFAIRS, HEADED THE U.S.
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DELEGATION; DR. BYONG-WHIE LEE, COMMISSIONER OF KOREA'S
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION HEADED THE KOREAN DELEGATION.

BOTH COUNTRIES ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING AND OMPLEMENTING
LONG-TERM ENERGY POLICIES TO COPE WITH A FORESEEABLE SCARCITY
OF PRIMARY FUELS. THE U.S. DELEGATION REVIEWED THE IMPORATNCE
OF NUCLEAR POWER TO THE DOMESTIC ENERGY PLANS OF THE UNITED
STATES AS A MEANS OF REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL
AND REAFFIRMED THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO BE
A RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF NUCLEAR REACTORS AND ENRICHED
URANIUM FUEL TO COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
WHO SHARE COMMON NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES. THE KOREAN
DELEGATION STRESSED THE CRITICAL ROLE OF NUCLEAR POWER
TO ITS FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS AND WELCOMED THE COMMITMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES TO HELP MEET THESE NEEDS.

THE U.S. DELEGATION OUTLINED THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION PROPOSED BY
PRESIDENT CARTER IN APRIL 1977 TO HELP SHAPE THE NEXT
GENERATION OF NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT TO MEET WORLD ENERGY NEEDS
WHILE MINIMIZING ASSOCIATED RISKS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.
THE KOREAN DELEGATION LENT ITS FULL SUPPORT TO THE UNITED
STATES INITIATIVE AND BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT FUTURE COOPERA-
TION IN THIS EVALUATION WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTIVES
OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE. THE KOREAN DELEGATION ALSO
SUGGESTED THE DESIRABILITY OF INCREASED UNITED STATES:REPUBLIC
OF KOREA COOPERATION IN NON-NUCLEAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AREAS,
SUCH AS SOLAR, TIDAL, GEOTHERMAL AND WIND ENERGY, AND BOTH
SIDES AGREED TO EXPLOE COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN THESE
AREAS. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE RANGE OF ENERGY USES AND
OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR ENERGY CONVERSION REQUIRES SYSTEMATIC
PLANNING AND ANALYSIS.

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IN ADDITION TO TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE, THE COMMITTEE
DESIGNATED SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH TECHNICAL EXPERTS
ARE TO BE EXCHANGED. KOREAN EXPERTS ARE GOING TO THE UNITED
STATES ON LONG-TERM ASSIGNMENTS IN NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR
LICENSING, INSPECTION AND SAFETY, AS WELL AS NUCLEAR POWER
AND FUEL TECHNOLOGY AREAS. U.S. EXPERTS WILL COME TO KOREA
AS VISITOR-ADVISORS FOR SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS. THE
COMMITTEE ALSO REVIEWED COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH A SISTER LABORATORY ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN
ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY OF THE U.S. AND THE KOREA ATOMIC
ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON

NEXT YEAR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL06016
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770268-0155
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770742/aaaabkhd.tel
Line Count: 226
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 6a5f9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 5423, 77 SEOUL 4002, 77 SEOUL 5530
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1817349
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESUME OF JULY 14 - 16 MEETING OF US-ROK JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR AND OTHER ENERGY TECHNOLOGY MATTERS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, KS, US
To: STATE ERDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6a5f9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009